

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS.

Claims 6-19 are pending. Claims 6, 10, 11, 15, 16 and 19, which are independent, are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the Specification as originally filed and specifically on page 33. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 6-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,701,386 to Yoneyama (hereinafter, merely "Yoneyama") in view of EP 0 712 127 to Yanagihara (hereinafter, merely "Yanagihara").

Claim 6 recites, *inter alia*:

"A recording apparatus...

wherein macro blocks of a frame that are generated in the scanning order are rearranged and record positions of the macro blocks are dispersed on the recording medium."
(Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Yoneyama relates to a recording apparatus for recording a compressed video signal on a disc which has an adder for adding the sequence header at the beginning of the corresponding sequence, and also for adding a copy of the sequence header at a beginning of the final GOP in the corresponding sequence. The reproducing apparatus for reproducing the compressed video signal from the disc has a control for controlling the pick-up device such that under the fast reverse play mode, the pick-up device jumps backward over a copied sequence header when the pick-up device enters a new sequence from a rear end thereof, and reads the copied sequence header.

As understood by Applicants, Yanagihara relates to a digital VTR which reproduces a recorded picture image in a normal mode and a variable speed reproduction mode. During normal speed reproduction, the digital VTR reproduces a recorded picture from data that has been recorded in a normal play area of a recording medium. When the digital VTR is in a variable low speed reproduction mode, it reproduces a picture from data recorded in a first trick play area. When the digital VTR is in a variable high speed reproduction mode, it reproduces a picture from data recorded in a second trick play area. The first and second trick play areas are located at respective tracks that correspond to different azimuths.

Applicants respectfully submit that Yoneyama and Yanagihara, taken either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 6. Specifically, there is no teaching or suggestion of a recording apparatus wherein macro blocks of a frame that are generated in the scanning order are rearranged and record positions of the macro blocks are dispersed on the recording medium, as recited in claim 6.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 6 is patentable.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 6, independent claims 10, 11, 15, 16 and 19 are also believed to be patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the independent claims, discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference or references providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any
overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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